

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

As members of Congress who care about America's national parks and their cultural, natural, historic and economic importance to the American people, we write to express our support for robust funding for the National Park Service in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

The National Park Service received enhanced and much-appreciated investments, particularly for park operations and maintenance, in recent years, thanks to your efforts and those of other appropriators and other members of Congress in both chambers. After years of underfunding, these resources will help meet visitor needs as parks enjoy high visitation with nearly 318 million visitors last year alone, as well as help protect, maintain and restore the places and resources so beloved by Americans and international tourists alike.

We call on you to build on this investment with robust funding in FY20. An enhanced investment will support needed repair and rehabilitation, cyclic maintenance, larger maintenance projects, visitor interpretation and other necessities. National park staffing levels are low and we urge added funds to provide the rangers and other staff needed to operate our parks, serve large numbers of visitors, maintain facilities, and steward park resources. Further, better funding can support matching grants that leverage at least one dollar of philanthropic donations for every federal dollar invested. These funds that have enjoyed bipartisan support would allow for projects throughout the country that address infrastructure and interpretation needs that enhance the visiting experience so critical to job creation and economic health.

Our national parks are some of the most visited destinations in the country, are a draw for international tourists, and offer affordable places of respite and learning for American families. They are a wise investment, with a return on investment of nearly \$10 for every dollar invested in the National Park Service. Additionally, these investments support over 300,000 jobs and \$36 billion in economic activity annually.

We recognize and thank you for your ongoing efforts to balance limited resources in a difficult fiscal climate. Given the economic benefits and continued high visitation to our national parks, we ask you to provide our national parks with the resources they need to protect and restore our national treasures for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you for your long-standing support for the National Park System.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



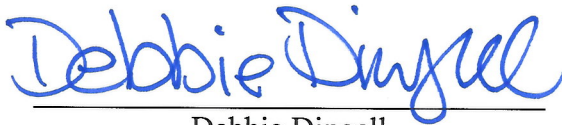
David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



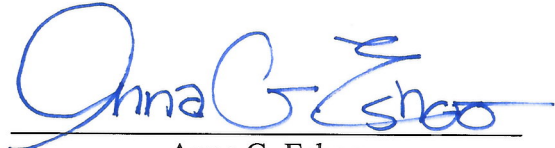
Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



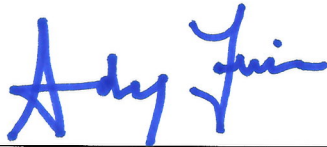
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



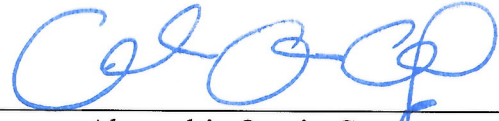
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



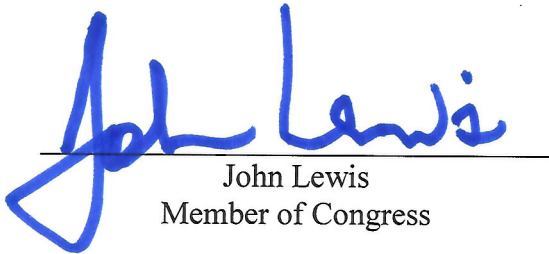
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress




Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



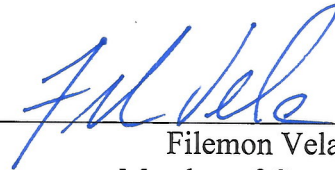
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



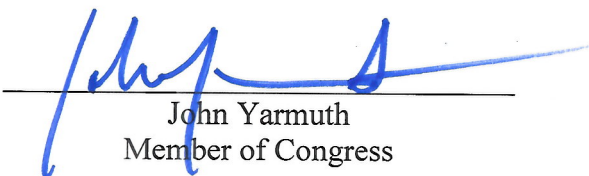
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

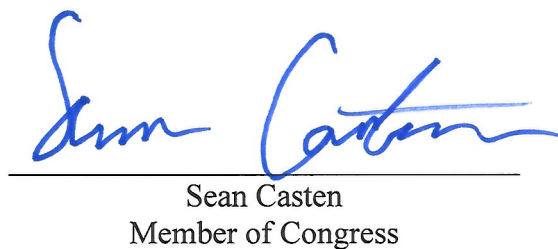


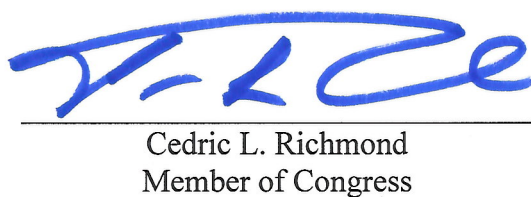
John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

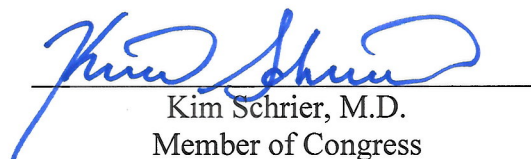


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

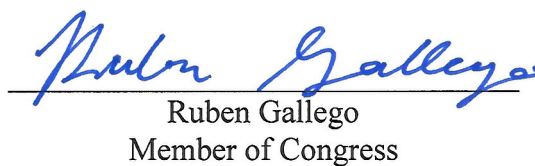

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


Sean Casten
Member of Congress

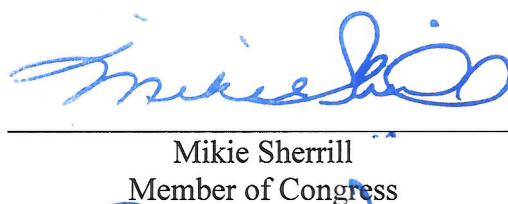

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

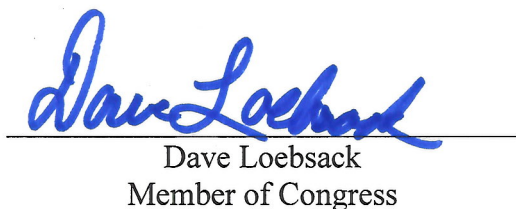

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

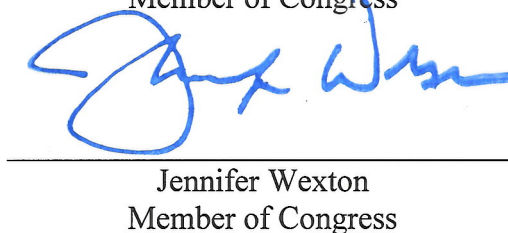

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

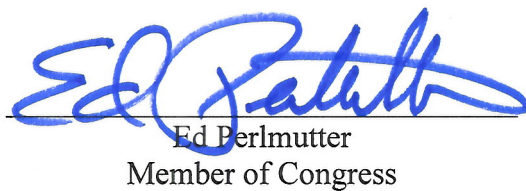

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

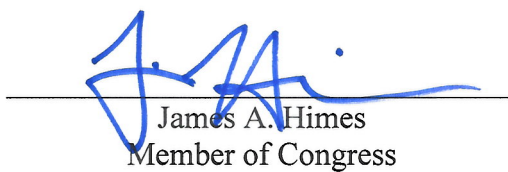

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

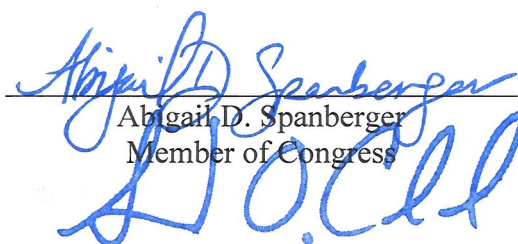

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

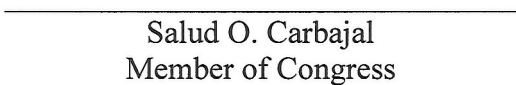

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

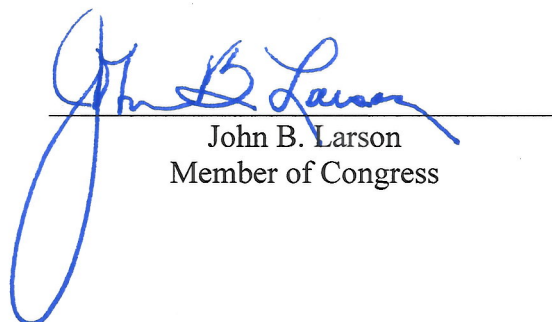

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

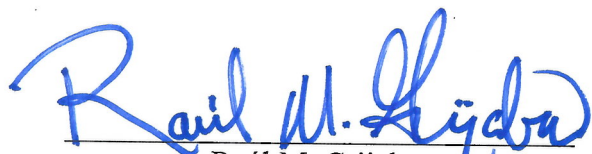

James A. Himes
Member of Congress


Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

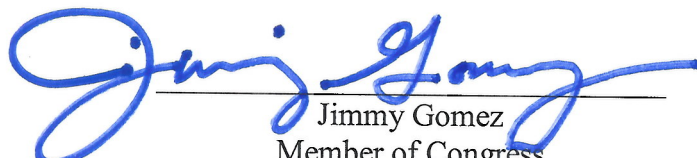

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

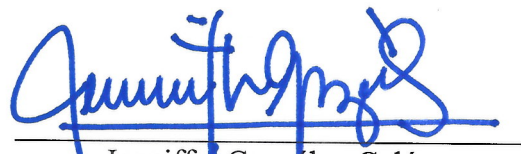

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

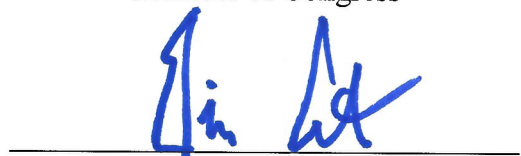

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

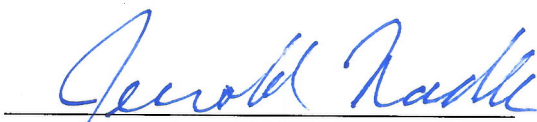

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


André Carson
Member of Congress



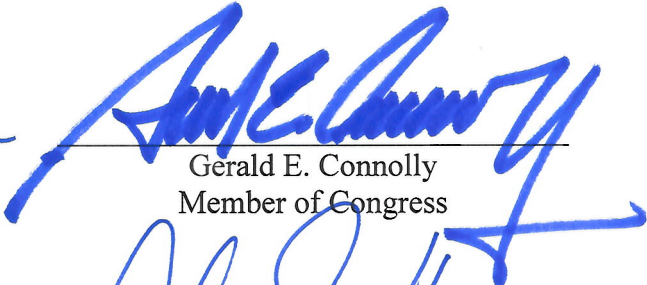
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



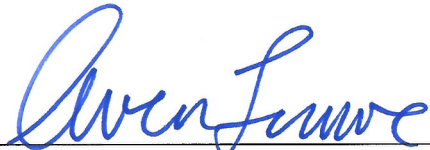
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



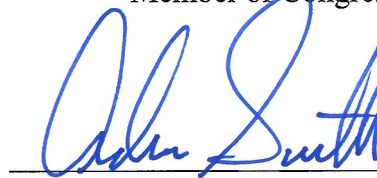
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



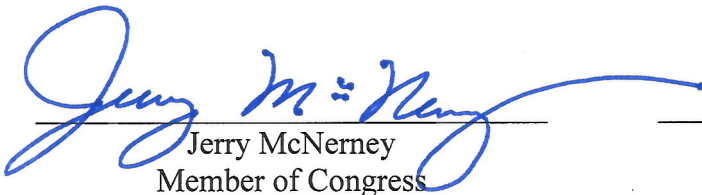
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



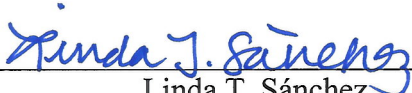
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



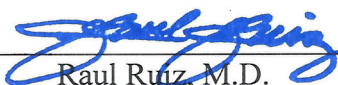
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



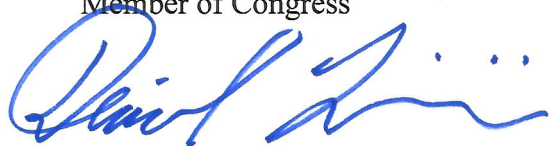
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



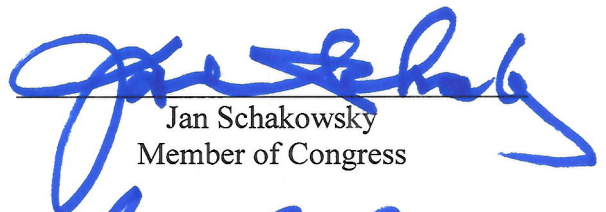
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



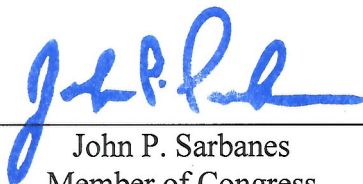
Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



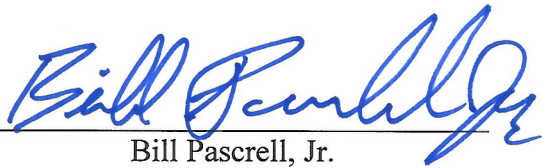
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



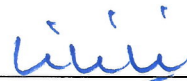
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



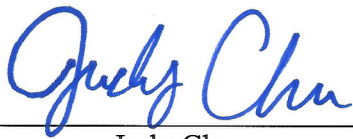
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



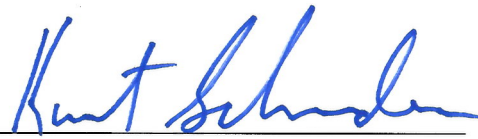
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



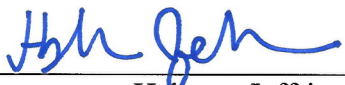
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



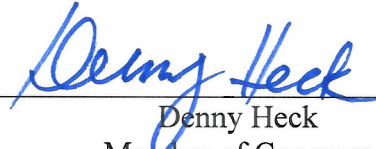
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



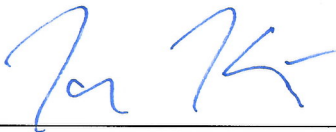
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Denny Heck
Member of Congress



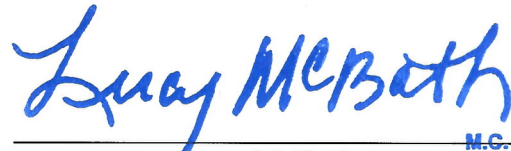
John Katko
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



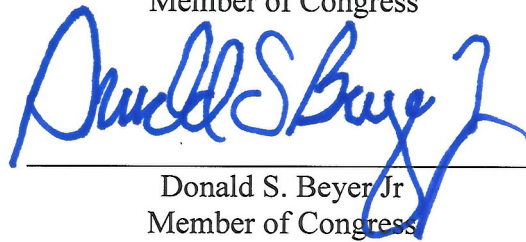
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath M.C.
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress